UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/SR.15
12 November 1991

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND
PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Forty-third session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 15 August 1991, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. JOINET
later: Mr. TURK
Mrs. BAUTISTA

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Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories: report of the Sub-Commission established under Commission on Human Rights resolution 8 (XXIII) (continued)

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GE.91-12793/3897B

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ESTABLISHED UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII) (agenda item 6) (continued) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/14; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/15; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/46; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/51; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/NGO/9; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/NGO/12; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/2; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/47; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/51; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/55)

1. Mr. WIRAJUDA (Observer for Indonesia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, in its statement on the previous day, his delegation had refrained from saying anything irrelevant or disruptive of the positive development represented by the forthcoming visit of a Portuguese parliamentary delegation to East Timor. As, however, the observer for Portugal had not had the same scruples, the Indonesian delegation felt compelled to set the record straight.

2. It was well known that Indonesia had consistently supported efforts by Portugal to decolonize East Timor, but the peaceful process undertaken by all political parties in East Timor had been brutally interrupted by the unilateral declaration of independence by a minority party, the so-called FRETILIN, which, aided and abetted by some Portuguese elements, had launched a reign of terror. In abandoning East Timor in August 1975 in the midst of a civil war, the Portuguese colonial administration had forfeited all its rights as an administering Power. The other four political parties representing the majority of the people had prevailed and had announced the establishment of the Provisional Government of East Timor. Subsequently the members of the People's Assembly had been duly elected and had then decided to proceed with the exercise of the right to self-determination in full compliance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and 2625 (XXV) and had formally requested the Government of Indonesia to accept the decision of the people of East Timor for integration with Indonesia. It was also indisputable that Indonesia had dispatched a fact-finding mission to the territory to determine whether that request genuinely represented the wishes of the majority and that it had always acted in accordance with the responsibility recognized by the United Nations and in conformity with its Charter and resolutions. It was also a matter of record that the Indonesian Government had made every effort to have the United Nations participate in the decolonization process and had reported to the Secretary-General at every stage of that process, to his Special Representative, to the President of the Security Council and to the Chairman of the Special Committee on decolonization.

3. The process had not been perfect, but had it been so in other Portuguese dependent territories? That country had demonstrated that it was incapable of fulfilling its obligations under Article 73 (e) of the Charter. His delegation would therefore like to reiterate that the exercise of the right to self-determination was no longer an issue in East Timor and that any attempt to pretend otherwise would negate the fundamental rights of the people of the territory.

4. Mr. Türk took the Chair.

5. Mr. MARKIDES (Observer for Cyprus), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, reminded the observer for Turkey that, if international bodies both within and outside the United Nations system remained seized with the problem of Cyprus, it was because of the continuing violations of international legality. The more than 50 Security Council resolutions on Cyprus adopted since 1974 remained unimplemented, as were the resolutions adopted by the Sub-Commission. The problem had certainly been in existence for too long, as the observer for Turkey had recognized. The latter had expressed the view that the statements by the observer for Cyprus might poison the atmosphere. He could not himself understand why; he had felt it would be useful to update the Sub-Commission on the situation of human rights in Cyprus, in the hope of achieving a solution which would fully respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Cyprus. He did not see how insistence on the measures to be taken and on the establishment of a climate conducive to the solution of the problem by stating the facts could poison the atmosphere. The efforts and good-will of the Government of Cyprus had been widely acknowledged. All that it wanted was respect for international human rights standards in Cyprus.

6. Mr. ALFONSO MARTINEZ expressed the view that consideration of item 6 was more complex than in previous years for three reasons. First, the Sub-Commission was about to apply for the first time the new interpretation by the Economic and Social Council on the use of the secret ballot. That decision, which he had opposed, would of necessity have consequences at the practical level and on other aspects of the discussion. In fact, all discrimination in decisions must be avoided and, if a majority of the experts wanted a secret ballot on, for example, draft resolutions relating to item 6, the same balloting procedure would have to be followed for all the texts submitted to the Sub-Commission on the item.

7. Second, it was unfortunate that the Sessional Working Group which the Sub-Commission, in its decision 1989/104, had requested to prepare an overview and an analysis of the suggestions and proposals which had been made in order to enable the Sub-Commission better to discharge its responsibilities in dealing with violations of human rights as discussed under agenda item 6, and which was chaired by Mr. van Boven, had not yet presented its conclusions. He had the impression that the Working Group had concentrated on issues outside its original mandate. It might also be borne in mind that, at its preceding session, the Commission on Human Rights had, in its resolution 1991/56, expressed its wish that the Working Group should concentrate on the purely practical aspects of the work of the Sub-Commission. As the creation of the Working Group had encouraged the hope that the questions addressed would be considered more logically and profitably, it was all the more disappointing that it had not presented its conclusions.

8. Third, the conditions of the discussion had also changed. In the international setting, following recent events, such as the Gulf war, there was more and more talk of a new world order. But when he himself had been a child, there had been talk of the new Nazi order and in Japan of the new totalitarian order! The new world order was backed up by a unilateral interpretation of human rights as a result of which there was a tendency to

avoid devoting too much attention to certain situations. Some people were also linking democracy, multipartyism, respect for certain political rights and the work of the Sub-Commission. But multipartyism should not be regarded as a universal panacea and democracy did not always prevail among the allies of those who advocated a range of political parties. Unfortunately, there was a risk that such a partisan vision would expand in the future and assume very serious proportions by imposing a scale of unacceptable values in human rights issues. As Mr. van Boven had pointed out the previous day a certain selectivity could be seen in the choice of the cases of human rights violations to be considered. It was nevertheless difficult to accept that the situation was absolutely perfect in some countries and it might well be asked what the situation was in South Africa, in Northern Ireland or in countries still under colonial domination, such as Puerto Rico. On occasion, also, recourse to force was endorsed.

9. While the problems of Cyprus, the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian population deprived of its right to self-determination remained under consideration, there was much less talk of the problems of black and Hispanic minorities in the United States or of the xenophobia directed against people from the Mahgreb and immigrants from southern Europe in the countries of western Europe. The situation also continued to be alarming in El Salvador and in Guatemala although there had been some progress and discussions or negotiations had been started. There was also little discussion of the repression rife in North Korea. All that demonstrated that, while certain countries were in the dock, other countries which were politically aligned with the great Powers, were passed over in silence.

10. He had hoped that the Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. van Boven would be able to present its conclusions during the current session. He was even more discouraged that that would not be possible when he observed that, following the drama of the bombing in Iraq, non-Kuwaiti populations continued to be the victims of atrocities. It was absolutely essential to think of all the victims without exception and to apply the same criteria to all situations considered under item 6, without any selectivity. In conclusion he expressed the fear that the new world order of which he had spoken would have increasingly negative consequences, not only for the countries of the third world but also for the Sub-Commission itself.

11. Mr. DESPOUY, after drawing attention to the growing role of the Secretary-General in a number of peace processes and to the growing concern of the United Nations in the face of human rights violations, invited the Sub-Commission to reflect on its role in the emerging new dynamism. He recollected that, the previous year, during the consideration of item 6, the Sub-Commission had taken courageous decisions on the issue of the violations of human rights in occupied Kuwait. Currently, the Iraqi population seemed to be in a very difficult situation and, according to UNICEF, the plight of children in particular was terrible for they lacked everything. Should not the Sub-Commission, during the current year, have the courage to ask that that situation be considered and insist that in no way should the future generation bear the brunt of current political and war-related concerns? It was unthinkable to disregard the UNICEF report; the talk of a new international order was meaningless if children and the civilian population were allowed to pay the consequences of a war.

12. Turning to the right of asylum, Mr. Despouy recalled that that right was enshrined in the 1951 Convention which formed part of humanitarian law. According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the problem of refugees and asylum seekers was more complex than ever. The right to asylum was being increasingly questioned and no longer enjoyed the same resources and political support as in the past. There had been a time when refugees were regarded as people who were persecuted, "freedom fighters"; nowadays they were merely regarded as possible illegal immigrants and the problem of asylum had become one of immigration. Their security was threatened at every turn and their camps had been attacked. Certain Governments even refused UNHCR access to refugee villages and, a new and alarming phenomenon could be observed, in the form of a substantial increase in the number of detentions of refugees and even, in certain countries, the automatic detention of asylum seekers.

13. The Office of the High Commissioner, reaffirming the principle of jus cogens, the irreversible and universally accepted standard, reported that certain countries were deporting refugees, individually or even collectively, to their countries of origin or other, sometimes dangerous, countries. Thousands of boats and thousands of people had thus been obliged to turn back. If therefore one were to ask which, of all the violations of human rights that were being committed in the world, were the most serious and if one bore in mind the figure of 15 million refugees and the treatment accorded them, one would be tempted to believe that violation of the right to asylum would have to be included in such a list. In Europe, even in countries whose reputation was founded on an ancient tradition of asylum, the upsurge of xenophobia and of its manifestations could be observed. The murky situation in the refugee camps in Thailand and Hong Kong was also of great concern. There was also little information on the fate of the Palestinians living in Kuwait who were all refugees. Was it not shameful that, after the enormous operation which had led to the liberation of Kuwait, the population of that country should be the scapegoat in a situation which the entire Sub-Commission had condemned? The conflict in the Gulf had also been accompanied by the most flagrant and pathetic violation of the right to non-refoulement amid general indifference, including that of lawyers. Any television viewer had been able to watch armies turn back populations seeking refuge, as in the case of the Kurds. That situation was extremely serious. The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees had a humanitarian as well as a monitoring function but in actual fact it could only exercise the first function. In current circumstances, it would be advisable for the Sub-Commission to suggest to the Commission that it appoint a special rapporteur on the right to asylum.

14. In conclusion, he raised the question of the persecution of political refugees in the country of asylum and, in that connection, he recalled the recent assassination of Shahpour Bakhtiar which had to be added to an over-long list of assassinations perpetrated in Switzerland, France, Austria, etc. None of those crimes had been solved. The Sub-Commission could not remain silent in the face of such a very alarming situation. It must respond as it had done the previous year on the occasion of the assassination of Mr. Rajavi.

15. Mr. CHERNICHENKO drew a distinction between two types of violations of human rights, namely, those perpetrated on the express instruction of the authorities of a State and those which took place when a Government had lost

control of the situation in a country or part thereof. The first aspect was more relevant to another item of the agenda and he therefore proposed to comment on the second which was well illustrated in the situation in the Soviet Union where the central Power was not able to control the situation all the time and everywhere. That was a heritage of the past, but would not go away suddenly and economic difficulties did not make things easier.

16. In that connection the situation concerning the conflict between Azerbaidzhan and Armenia was extremely serious. Blood had been spilled on both sides, human rights were being ignored and refugees were fleeing. But, in the final analysis, the question was less that of who had lit the tinder box than of how the innocent victims could be helped; the remedy was not to be found in intervention but rather - as the Government wanted - in a dialogue, difficult although that would be to start. Elsewhere in the country, in southern Ossetia, for example, where Georgians and Ossetians confronted each other, the problem of violations of human rights was equally acute. He also referred to cases which had been seen in Vilnius, Riga or in Uzbekistan which, while involving individuals, were no less terrible for those concerned and were no less symptomatic of the tensions within the country. In such diverse cases, the approach must be both common and diversified and the solution again entailed a dialogue.

17. He had misgivings that certain situations might lead to others being forgotten. There was for example the case of Georgia where a population victimized by repression since Stalin was not always accepted in its own country; or again that of the Russian-speaking population of the Baltic countries which, when those countries achieved independence, might not be granted citizenship and be compelled to swell the ranks of the refugees. The overall situation, which was already difficult and which the Government was endeavouring to alleviate, had been further aggravated by the disastrous economic situation which it had inherited and which had in particular led to an escalation in the crime rate. He was convinced that the improvement of the economic situation of the country must lead to an improvement in the human rights situation. That was the universal wish. One question however arose, namely, how to solve all those problems, whether immediate or longer term ones. He had listened attentively to the statements of the NGOs but, as an expert, he would have liked them to offer practical advice for, while it was true that each expert knew the situation in his own country best, it was also true that nobody was a prophet in his own country.

18. There was certainly a need for international discussion but such a procedure could have negative implications as some parties would not acknowledge that reforms which they found embarrassing could have any merit. Every effort must however be made in order to find a practical solution to the issues, as otherwise there would only be discussions and recommendations giving the illusion of action while basically nothing changed. He regretted that, to use a term from physics, the coefficient of useful action was not very high in the case of the Sub-Commission's resolutions which, once adopted, very often lost all their strength. He reverted to a matter which he had raised the previous year, namely, the importance of the media which members of the Sub-Commission tended mistakenly to neglect although it was true that the media often lost interest when a situation was no longer contentious. He

noted with regret that human rights were violated in countries where the legal system functioned perfectly well and where members of the legal profession were well qualified.

19. He then drew attention to an issue on which he had a personal interest. The former representative of the German Democratic Republic was currently unemployed and would like his situation to be mentioned as it was quite common in certain Eastern European countries where there was a tendency not to have equitable relations with the countries of the former Pact. That issue might be relevant in the context of human rights.

20. On the other hand, one NGO had referred to racial discrimination allegedly practised in the United States. In the latest report of Amnesty International he had noted continuing concern at racial discrimination in the field of justice. Instances of police cruelty to detainees had been mentioned; other cases illustrated in particular the cruelty of the electric chair procedure. The death penalty could be carried out in different ways but the spirit of human rights could not tolerate such a procedure.

21. The situation in Northern Ireland continued to be distressing. It was serious elsewhere: there had been much talk of Iraq, Iran, the Kurdish problem, South Africa, the occupied Arab territories, many examples of situations where human rights continued to be thwarted.

22. In a world in permanent mutation with changes taking place everywhere - in South Africa, the Middle East - he considered it essential that the Sub-Commission should become more "expert" in the resolutions which it adopted and which should better reflect such changes. He did not wish to be selective in his statement; in any case it was not possible to mention every case as, for example, an Amnesty International report could do. He would therefore limit himself to drawing attention to a general problem: it sometimes happened that a great deal of attention was paid to the existence of violations while losing sight of procedural questions; sometimes, the opposite happened. It would therefore be desirable to strike a fair balance between procedural and substantive issues.

23. Mrs. Bautista took the Chair.

24. Mr. TURK recalled that much had been said already about the purpose of the discussions under item 6 and on the possibilities offered by those discussions. He wished to stress that over the past years the Sub-Commission had made certain progress. It was for example the only United Nations body capable of expressing an opinion on violations of human rights in certain situations when it had been the first to break silence or to facilitate the tasks of other bodies by recommending a particular approach to a problem. The question might be asked whether it was correct that discussions under item 6 could achieve no more than condemnations of human rights violations. There were certainly situations which called for the expression of concern and even condemnation but, before taking a definite decision, the Sub-Commission would be well advised to consider carefully the question of what should be the most appropriate approach and what should be the content of its recommendations. For it should not be forgotten that many of the reasons which had prompted a condemnatory approach had ceased to exist and that condemnation of States was not necessarily the most effective way to remedy violations of human rights.

25. The Sub-Commission was fully entitled to take decisions under item 6 by secret ballot, a possibility which expanded its freedom of action. However, that did not mean that all decisions must be adopted by secret ballot. While that method should remain the most appropriate in most cases, there would also be situations where the Sub-Commission's decisions should be taken publicly with each member explaining his vote fully.

26. In addition to condemnation, other methods were available to the Commission, such as advisory services, good offices and mediation. In situations where human rights violations occurred as a result of political or ethnic conflicts it would perhaps be appropriate to encourage dialogue, to bring parties to the dispute to the negotiating table or to try to find an appropriate form of good offices or mediation even though it had to be admitted that bodies involved in the defence of human rights, including the Sub-Commission, were not always the best equipped for that kind of activity. The United Nations must however function as a whole and as a system. The Sub-Commission might therefore recommend good offices by the Secretary-General more frequently or, when necessary, seek clarification of the legal aspects of a given situation by means of an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

27. Referring to the specific situation of the Albanians in Kosovo which was a part of Serbia in Yugoslavia, he said that for a number of years there had been a major problem of human rights. The current crisis in Yugoslavia comprised of a variety of problems, including those resulting from the use of military force against democratically-elected Governments. There was therefore a major international crisis situation and numerous international institutions, including the European Economic Community, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Security Council, had expressed their concern. The situation had already become internationalized. Most of the current problems were political in nature and constituted a threat to peace. It was quite natural that international action was being pursued within the framework of organizations competent to deal with political and security matters.

28. The situation in Kosovo was essentially one of human rights. Among the rights involved were the right to physical integrity and the personal security of every person, the right to a fair trial, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to freedom of association, the right to work, the right to education, the right to equality and non-discrimination. For a number of years past he had been involved in various activities aiming at improving the situation in Kosovo. He continued to believe that the solution must be sought and found in the country where the problems were actually occurring. International action could not replace such an approach. International action could however help to solve problems provided that the situation lent itself to such action.

29. One of the main problems which was blocking progress towards effective realization of human rights for all in Kosovo was the absence of a meaningful political dialogue between the Government of Serbia, which exercised effective power in the region, and the Albanian population, which constituted the majority. There was only one thing to be done, namely, to establish a meaningful dialogue between the Government of Serbia and the freely chosen

representatives of the Albanian population in Kosovo; that was an essential prerequisite in the search for viable solutions. It was the first step to be taken and the sequence of steps to be taken must be well thought out. In such a situation what should be the role of international organizations? They could help to facilitate the efforts to find a solution. It might also be useful for a body such as the Sub-Commission to appeal to the parties directly involved, namely, the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the freely chosen representatives of the Albanian population in Kosovo to start a dialogue in the near future. The dialogue should start as soon as possible and without preconditions. The federal authorities in Yugoslavia could help in the process by transmitting such an appeal to both parties. Time was precious and so were human rights. Instead of issuing condemnations which were often useless, new and constructive approaches must be found. He therefore invited the other members of the Sub-Commission to comment on the issue.

30. Mr. TREAT thought the approach proposed by Mr. Türk highly innovative and that the Sub-Commission should give it serious thought. It was true that one should avoid simply condemning countries and that instead efforts should be made to take measures capable of bringing about the adoption of non-violent solutions to improve the human rights situation throughout the world. The Sub-Commission should guard against addressing human rights issues from a political standpoint and the progress it had achieved in that area in recent years should be welcomed.

31. As Mr. van Boven had said, the Sub-Commission must refrain from showing selectivity in the questions it considered. However, selectivity was inevitable in that the Sub-Commission drew up its agenda on the basis of the issues brought to its attention, particularly by non-governmental organizations. That was why some countries where, however, serious human rights violations were known to be committed, were never mentioned under item 6 because no NGO had referred to them.

32. With regard to the question, raised by Mr. van Boven, of the role of the media during the Gulf war, although he was not an expert on the subject, he was aware that it was difficult to decide how the media should discharge their functions in a military situation as delicate and complex as that of the Gulf war. In any war, the military had an obligation to keep the number of casualties as low as possible; that required very great discipline on all sides and was hard to reconcile with the absolute right to freedom of the press. Unfortunately, no one as yet had found a way of waging a sterilized war that did not cause any casualties and in any case people should be pleased that the Gulf war had not lasted long and had produced few casualties. It should also be underlined that the war had been started only after long months of negotiations in the Security Council and that the international community had decided unanimously to end Iraq's unjustified aggression against Kuwait. Nevertheless, the war had not settled everything since a large number of human rights violations continued to be committed in Iraq and the United Nations, through its competent bodies, should continue to monitor events in Iraq and try to find a solution to guarantee the protection of the Iraqi people against any abuse. It was not a simple matter to establish a democracy and no country could impose it on another, but those countries, like the United States, with experience in that respect should proclaim at all times its virtues and assist

in efforts to promote the right to self-determination of all those peoples who did not as yet exercise that right. In view of the shortness of the time available to him, he reserved the right to revert to those questions at a later stage.

33. Mr. TIAN Jin said that he had listened carefully to the comments made by a number of experts under item 6 which reflected the viewpoint of many developing countries. It was a fact that the concepts of human rights and democracy were not perceived in the same way in all countries for historical, social, economic and cultural reasons. Some, however, would like to impose the same principle throughout the world without taking account of the specificity of each region. All roads led to Rome, and Asia, Africa and other regions in the world were entitled to choose the road that suited them best since it was obvious that everything that was imposed or imitated could not last. All Governments were required to improve the human rights situation in their country. However the question of human rights was highly complex and could be interpreted very differently depending on the angle from which it was viewed. That was why the veracity and credibility of the allegations made in the Sub-Commission should be examined. A Chinese proverb said that one heard better when one listened with both ears. That meant that one had a better understanding of certain situations when one listened to all the points of view and that principle could be applied very well to the debate under item 6.

34. Mr. BA (Observer for Mauritania), speaking in exercise of the right of the reply, said that the allegations made by Amnesty International against Mauritania were based mainly on the statements of persons detained for their participation in a conspiracy against the Mauritanian Government, a fact which might bring their credibility into question. He wished to stress, however, that the Mauritanian Government had ordered an inquiry into the affair which was being conducted by the military authorities because the acts alleged were reported to have taken place in barracks and to have been committed by military personnel.

35. Moreover, major changes had occurred recently in Mauritania, where a new Constitution establishing an overall pluralist democracy had been overwhelmingly approved by the population in a referendum. A general amnesty had been proclaimed and two orders guaranteeing freedom of the press and authorizing the setting up of political parties had been promulgated. Finally, free general elections were planned before the end of the year. Those new developments which constituted a substantial contribution to the establishment of a State in which the rule of law prevailed and which respected human rights seemed to have escaped the attention of Amnesty International as had other situations whose seriousness was, however, widely recognized by the international community.

36. Mr. PEREIRA GOMEZ (Observer for Portugal), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, categorically rejected the accusation made against his delegation of hindering the work of the Sub-Commission by raising certain questions. He recalled that after the invasion of East Timor by Indonesia, the Security Council in resolution 384 (1975) had called upon the Indonesian Government to withdraw all its forces from that territory and that the General Assembly in 1976 in resolution 31/53 had rejected the so-called declaration of self-determination of East Timor. Contrary to what was

affirmed by Indonesia, the decolonization process in East Timor was not completed since the situation in that territory continued to be considered every year by the Special Committee dealing with decolonization whose latest session had been held recently. Portugal supported the Secretary-General's efforts to find a solution to the problem of East Timor and hoped that the visit to the territory by a Portuguese parliamentary delegation would help to create a climate conducive to an overall solution acceptable at the international level, as the Secretary-General himself had stated in his latest report on the question to the General Assembly (A/45/507).

37. Mr. WIRAJUDA (Observer for Indonesia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply for the second time, said that he would like Portugal to prove that it was genuinely concerned about the fate of all the people of East Timor and not just a handful of desperadoes on the run, not by making pointless comments which merely impeded the work of the Sub-Commission, but by demonstrating its sincerity when it claimed to be seeking a solution to the problem of East Timor in the context of the efforts undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

38. Mr. AL-DOURI (Observer for Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, regretted that Mr. Treat had not said anything about the effects on the Iraqi people of the economic embargo imposed on Iraq. He would also like to have an explanation as to why the destruction of the entire economic infrastructure of the country, the death of innocent civilians and the suffering of the Iraqi people were essential to enforce the international legality referred to by him.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.